Recently I had the good fortune to be able to show it to Brigadier-General Evans in the South Kensington Museum, who confirmed my identification, and added that my specimen was distinctly darker than any of the series in the Museum, which show a progressive darkening towards the north. This seems to indicate that this butterfly may be found sparingly throughout the intermediate region and have an alternative to its normal food-plant, the cocoa-nut palm, which is not found in the Kalimpong district.

On the other hand as the district has been so extensively worked by collectors, and the butterfly itself is so large and distinctive, consideration must be given to the possibility that it may have been accidentally imported in the pupal stage in a crate of cocoa-nuts.

South Kensington,
London, S.W.
July 20, 1935.

JOHN ELIOT,
Lieutenant, R.A.

XXIX.—ON THE PRESERVATION OF *HETEROCERA* IN INDIA.

Collectors of Butterflies are far more numerous in India than those of Moths, the reasons usually advanced being that the *Heterocera* are more difficult to identify and preserve.

The first of these reasons has a certain foundation, the only general books that are easily obtainable being Hampson's Moths in the *Fauna of British India* and the three Indo-Australian volumes in Seitz's *Macrolepidoptera of the World*. Hampson is now out of date and incomplete and Seitz, which is still in course of publication, does not include the *Pyralidae*.

The excuse regarding preservation, however, is completely unfounded and the following account of how I deal with my specimens may be of help to other collectors. In the first place I must make it clear that I set nothing in India, all my specimens being papered and sent to Europe.

After killing the moth with cyanide, I paper it in exactly the same way as I would a butterfly, the envelope bearing the usual data in pencil. I keep the papered specimens in a large cigaratte drying bottle, the drying pad being exchanged for a wad of cotton soaked in creosote as a preventive against mildew. I never eviscerate even the largest species and, except for an occasional specimen becoming greasy, I have never had the slightest trouble. As soon as I have accumulated a couple of hundred insects, I pack them securely and post them to London, where they may remain for two or three years before being relaxed and set.

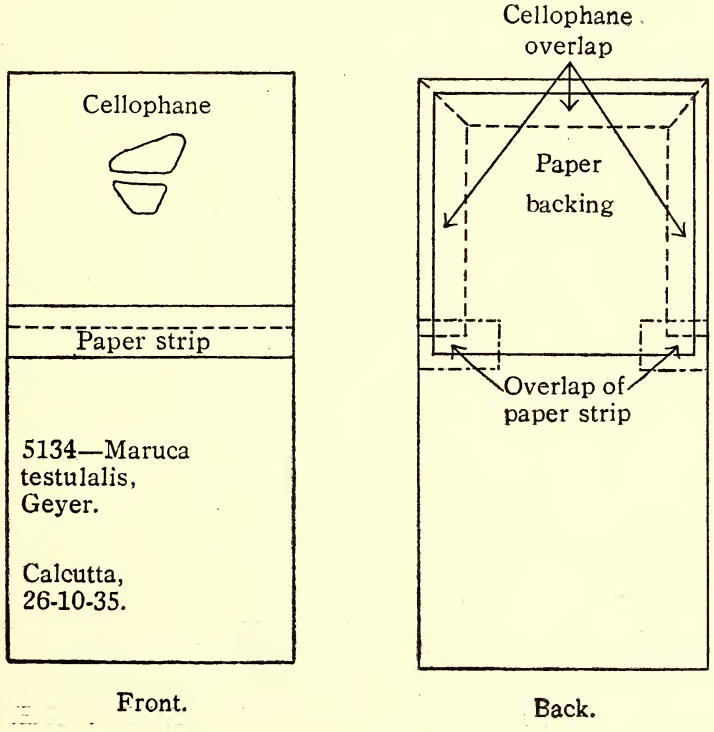
For relaxing I use methylated spirit. The papers and their contents are damped with the spirit and are then shut up in an air-tight tin for a couple of days. The insects will then be perfectly pliable and ready for setting and can be removed from the setting boards after twenty-four hours. Hairy-bodied species should not be damped, as this leads to the matting of the hair on the thorax and abdomen, but should be exposed to the fumes of a mixture of spirit and water. It is important to write all data

on the envelopes in ordinary lead pencil; ink or copying pencil is affected by the spirit and will cause stains on the insects inside the papers. I have employed this method with great success on the largest *Saturniidae* and the smallest *Pyralidae*.

For reference in India, I keep a series of wings mounted on cards. These are prepared as follows:

Take a suitable piece of card, I use small visiting cards, and cut a piece of Cellophane large enough to cover from a third to a half of the card, depending on the size of the wings to be mounted, and to overlap each side and the end. The two wings of one side are then cut off as close to the base as possible, a thin film of good paste such as Gripfix is brushed over the card, the wings are placed in position and the whole covered with the Cellophane and pressed down. The overlaps are turned over and pasted to the back of the card, a thin strip of paper is pasted over the free edge of the Cellophane to prevent it coming away from the card and a small square of paper is pasted over the back of the mount to prevent it warping with changes in humidity. The usual data is written on the exposed half of the card. I have found it convenient for comparison to make all mounts with wings from the same side, either right or left is immaterial. If the markings of the underside are of importance, a wing can be mounted to show this aspect also.

The appearance of the finished mount is shown below.



Papered specimens are very difficult to examine and I have

found these mounts extremely useful in two ways. They enable local variation to be recognised at once and also serve as a basis when identifying one of a group of allied species, especially those where Hampson's description reads 'As . . . but lines more oblique.'

CALCUTTA. D. G. SEVASTOPULO, F.R.E.S.

October 28, 1935.

XXX.—ON THE FLOWERING OF *STROBILANTHES* IN 1934.

Very little has been known about the periodical flowering of the numerous species of the genus *Strobilanthes* and M. E. Robinson's record of the flowering of a few of them in 1934 in No. 1, vol. xxxviii of the *Journal,* is a useful contribution. As I travelled through Coorg, Wynaad and Nilgiris in September 1934 I am able to add the following species which were found flowering in addition to those mentioned by M. E. Robinson.

S. heyneanus Nees, was found in flower in jungles in Coorg and Wynaad. Gamble says it is often found in flower.

S. cuspidatus T. And. was found on the sides of hills in Gudalur. Gamble says that it was collected in flower in 1851, 1870, 1877, 1884 and that its period seems to be about 7 years.

S. sessilis Nees, was flowering very copiously all over the hills behind Naduvattam overlooking the Ouchterloney Valley. This hill is locally known as the Gudalur malai as it overlooks the town of Gudalur on the other side. It is a very pretty plant in flower and grows and flowers gregariously. Gamble says it probably flowers almost every year or at any rate at short intervals. I also found this plant in flower in the same locality in May 1933, but am not able to say whether it flowered profusely in that year as it did in 1934.

Before concluding this note I might mention that I found *S. consanguineus* C. B. Clarke, in bloom on the sacred hills of Tirupati in March 1927. This is a new locality for this plant as it has been so far known only from the Western Ghats.

Little is known about the flowering of *S. warrensis* Dalz. It has been reported from South Canara and Coorg. I collected this species on the lower slopes of the High Range, Travancore, above Neriamangalam in December 1933 but then the flowering season was over and I could gather only dry spikes.

Lovers of plants who happen to collect any species of *Strobilanthes* in flower may send them to the writer who will be glad to identify their specimens for them. The planting community can do much towards establishing the periodicity of their flowering.

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